

REMARKS

The above amendments to the above-captioned application along with the following remarks are being submitted as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated October 10, 2006. In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to give due reconsideration to this application, to indicate the allowability of the claims, and to pass this case to issue.

Status of the Claims

As outlined above, claims 4-6, 9 and 13-14 stand for consideration in this application, wherein claims 1-3, 7-8, 10-12 and 15-22 are being canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, while claims 4, 9, and 13 are being amended to correct formal errors and to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject invention.

All amendments to the application are fully supported therein. Applicants hereby submit that no new matter is being introduced into the application through the submission of this response.

Formal Objections

Claim

Claim 1 was objected to on the grounds of informalities. Particularly, the Examiner asserted that the terms "the internal circuit" recited in claim 1 does not have sufficient antecedent basis.

As set forth above, claim 1 is being canceled, and therefore, the objection to claim 1 is moot. Applicants submit that claim 4 is being amended so to include all the limitations of claim 1 and any intervening claims and to meet all formal requirements with respect to the term "internal circuit."

Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Prior Art Rejections

The First 35 U.S.C. §102(b) rejection

Claims 1-3, 7-8, 10-12 and 15-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Hansen et al. (U.S. Pat. 5,778,419). As mentioned above, claims 1-3, 7-8, 10-12 and 15-22 are being cancelled, and therefore the rejection of claims 1-3, 7-8, 10-12 and 15-22 is moot. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for holding that claims 4-6, 9 and 13-14 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 4, 9, and 13 are being amended so as to be in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, as suggested by the Examiner. Therefore, claims 4, 9 and 13 being allowable, claims 5-6 and 14 would be allowable as being dependent on claim 4, 9 or 13.

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance as set forth in the Office Action. However, Applicants will point out that the reasons for allowability of the above referenced claims are not limited to the reasons for allowance as set forth in the Office Action.

Conclusion

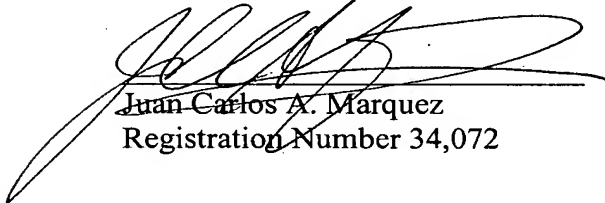
In view of all the above, Applicants respectfully submit that certain clear and distinct differences as discussed exist between the present invention as now claimed and the prior art references upon which the rejections in the Office Action rely. These differences are more than sufficient that the present invention as now claimed would not have been anticipated nor rendered obvious given the prior art. Rather, the present invention as a whole is distinguishable, and thereby allowable over the prior art.

Favorable reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully solicited. Should there be any outstanding issues requiring discussion that would further the prosecution and allowance of the above-captioned application, the Examiner is invited to

contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the address and phone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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